2: Hockings E-4,5 (1962-1977) 1980
AW50 Badaga AW50

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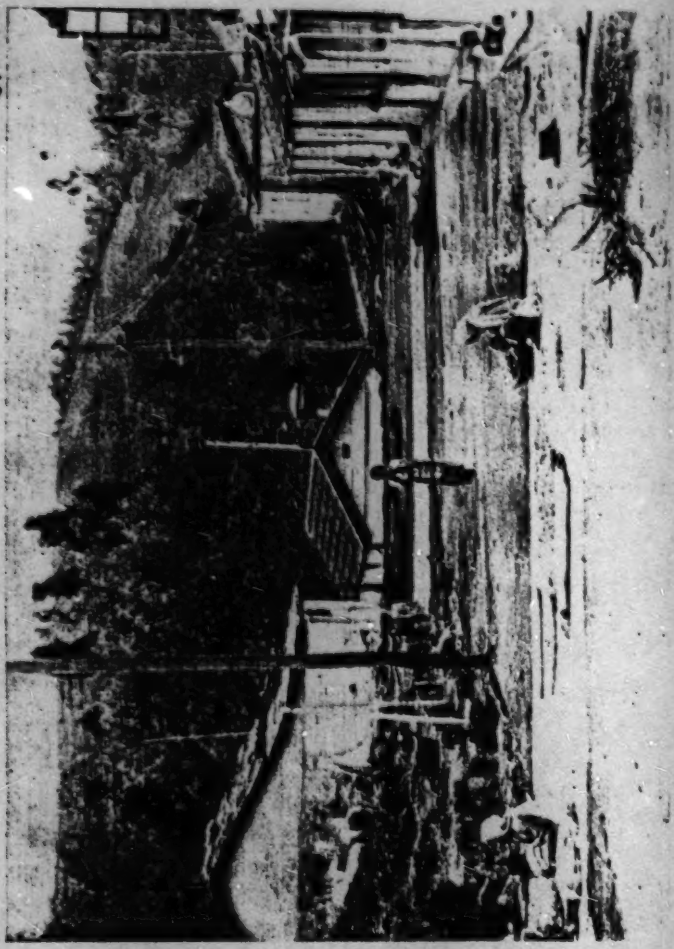
361
●366



[following p. 248-B]

177 178 121 Until the end of the last century Badagas sedulously avoided the British legal system and its officers. The traditional Badaga system, which we described earlier (pp. 29-43), continued to operate effectively. In the following chapter we shall describe the social change which came about during the present century when Badagas were obliged to adapt their legal system so as to make use of the official Indian one too.

657 (631) (625) (871) Local government under the British was in practice confined for the most part to the municipalities. Some police stations were established in rural areas, and local roads were constructed; but in general there was little attempt to improve the lot of the Badagas. In a few villages the presence of free mission schools from 1857 onward nevertheless did much to raise the standard of education (cf. Grigg 1880: 423-26).

After Independence, on the other hand, the Indian government began to pay a great deal of attention to developing the rural sector of the country. The Nilgiris was not selected for inclusion in the areas subjected to intensive community development in the early 1950's, but local panchayat offices were set up in the administrative "villages" of the Nilgiris, and began the dissemination of information and the improvement of basic services. The Badagas were classified as a "Backward Class" and received special help in these matters from the Harijan Welfare Department. Today most villages, as a result of these efforts, have a fairly hygienic supply of running tap-water, a track connecting them with the main roads, and an electricity supply. Many villages have started their own cooperative society, through which they get loans and agricultural supplies against the security of their lands or houses.

(312) (491) (365) (474)

177 Certain pieces of legislation often regarded as milestones in the recent